

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS COUNCIL OF CLARK COUNTY

JUNE 13 MEETING

MINUTES

The June meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by Chairman Doug Ballou. Those in attendance were: Holly Gaya, CC PIO Office; Bud Van Cleve, NE Hazel Dell; Sue Lintz, East Minnehaha; Roy Rhine, representing Representative Jim Dunn; Cecile Hill, Pleasant Highlands; Milada Allen, Felida; George Vartanian, Fairgrounds; Susan Gilbert, Enterprise/Paradise Point; Bridget Schwarz, FOCC; Pete Capell, Clark County Dept. of Public Works; Robyn Kim, Greater Brush Prairie; Lee Wells, Ridgefield Junction.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Doug announced the guests, introductions were made and the evening's agenda was discussed. Doug handed out various reports on new development applications for areas that have no neighborhood association representation to those whose neighborhood association is near the proposed development.

Doug and Bud Van Cleve volunteered to judge several of the High School Senior project presentations last week at Hudson Bay High School. Students had completed extensive research over the past school year on their chosen topics and gave clear and excellent presentations. These projects taught them not only much about their topic but also about themselves. Doug and Bud were most impressed and urged others to volunteer next year to be judges. We will coordinate this through Tom Hagley, VSD liaison with NACCC.

ROY RHINE, SPEAKING FOR REPRESENTATIVE JIM DUNN

Roy apologized that Representative Dunn was in committee meetings in Ellensburg and could not attend. He discussed the annexation legislation and specifically HB 1285 which would have taken away citizens right to vote on annexation of their property by a city. He has been working hard to defeat this bill and a discussion followed. Several people agreed that the voice of the people should not be taken away.

Art Stubbs brought up the subject of sound barriers along freeways. On newly constructed freeway widening projects sound walls are included in the project if existing sound levels would exceed the standards. Art has found it very difficult to obtain commitments and support for building sound walls along areas of I-205 that now exceed the state standard and is negatively impacting the livability of neighborhoods right near the freeway. Art also asked Roy if there could be a non-partisan effort on the part of the legislators in SW Washington to bring back to the people of Clark County more of our tax dollars to help address our transportation and road improvement needs.

Roy then touched on higher education with WSU working well with the local colleges for the benefit of the students. Bud mentioned that more funding should come to WSU to move their research facility to the main campus and that it should remain a part of our community. He wants to see legislators put more pressure on in Olympia for that funding.

PETE CAPELL, CLARK COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS

Pete gave the group an update on the transportation projects slated for the six-year period starting in 2004. An accompanying handout was distributed breaking down each project by

date and location. Pete explained that the Federal Transportation Act was not re-authorized, therefore county share has not been realized. He said that a good deal of funding goes to permitting, environmental factors, etc., not just construction of roads. He believes that a good deal of funding for transportation infrastructure in the future will need to come from the private sector. He cited the partnership with Legacy for the 134th St. project as a good example of public/private partnership.

He then reported about the status of parks and announced that the Metropolitan Parks District will develop 35 new parks of the next 7 years. Bids will go out in the spring so that park development can be completed over the summer and be done by the time school starts. He described the typical neighborhood park as a 3-5-acre footprint with amenities that blends in with surrounding development and would typically have a sport court, children's play area, walking trails and some irrigated lawn. Community parks are anywhere from 40 acres to 240 acres with rest rooms, sports fields, more amenities such as off leash areas for pets, etc. The new parks will have sports fields to meet the need for more areas for soccer, baseball, and other field sports. A result of the Parks Forum last week each community park will have community history as a part of it and all will not be cookie cutters of each other, but unique to each neighborhood they serve. There will be opportunities for public input from citizens into the development of their park. Pete then reported on the new environmental management system put in place.

He also mentioned that the county has joined with Columbia Springs to provide environmental education to grades K-12.

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Susan Gilbert, Enterprise/Paradise Point – Susan reported that the State of Washington has put in a state-of-the-art septic system for Paradise Park and that the county was remiss in not informing adjoining landowners of the project. She discovered that the State had constructed a road, part of which was on her property. The problem was amicably solved but she pointed out to the county that, even if permitting is not needed, projects of such magnitude should be announced to adjoining landowners to prevent any possible problems.

She also announced that her association will be meeting with both La Center and Ridgefield so that citizens affected by the proposed UGB expansions of both cities are fully educated on the pros and cons.

George Vartanian, Fairgrounds – George reported that the proposed traffic light at Union and 179th St. is still a problem.

Milada Allen, Felida – Milada announced that the Felida 4th of July Children's Parade will be July 4 at 11 a.m. She also reported that citizens wanted to name a park for Sgt. Crawford. They have located a park three blocks from the family's home and it will be named in his honor.

Robyn Kim, Greater Brush Prairie – Robyn reported that the new UGB affects their southwest boundary and would include many new housing developments.

Bridget Schwarz, FOCC – Bridget announced that FOCC has been busy with the Growth Management update and they will be preparing their quarterly newsletter in which they will elaborate on what everyone should know about sustainable growth and quality of life issues.

She also announced that 15 applicants applied to NUSA to be considered as the “Neighborhood of the Year” and that Fairgrounds came in second because of the excellent job they did spearheading the community outreach by hosting the reception after the memorial service for Sgt. Crawford. Their involvement was the perfect example of “partnership building” within a community. They fed almost 1,000 people throughout the day just prior to the procession to the memorial service.

Lee Wells, Ridgefield Junction – Lee reported on the progress of the \$30 million overpass widening at 269th St. He announced that their annual meeting will be Monday, June 20 at 6:30 p.m. at Dollar Tree Stores.

Bud Van Cleve, NE Hazel Dell – Bud reported that the juvenile justice forum on restorative justice was well attended with 80 representatives.

He hoped that Camp Bonneville will transfer the park to the county by Spring. Marc Boldt is taking the lead to have a quick turnaround by the government.

Erin Nolan has been promoted to Assistant Chief to Mike Evans. She will no longer be our liaison and will be replaced by a yet-to-be-announced replacement.

Bud reported that 13 new businesses are going in along HWY 99. Team 99 is working on trying to put together “pocket parks” along the highway.

He announced that Hazel Dell Elementary has constructed a Community Garden with a greenhouse and raised beds for growing vegetables. The students are in charge of it and all food is used on the premises. During the summer, Boys and Girls Clubs will take over the chores.

June 21st is the date of the Ice Cream Social at the Public Works building starting at 7 p.m.

Art Stubbs, Green Meadows – As a member of the Clean Water Commission, Art said they had a meeting with the builder’s association and the county to promote low impact developments as well as how to spend less money to clean up water.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Gilbert Secretary

Reviewed By Doug Ballou, June 16, 2005